

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract in its entirety and replace it with the following:

~~Disclosed herein is a~~An apparatus designed to assist the manual transportation of large, heavy or unwieldy articles. The preferred embodiment ~~of the present invention~~ is an economically-designed mattress caddy fabricated of a variety of strong light-weight materials (e.g. nylon, aluminum) to provide the functionality and durability. ~~required by the nature of its usage.~~ The main components of the present invention include a support strap, with handles formed at each end, and two cradle assemblies. To ~~utilize the present invention in the transportation of a mattress, it~~ the apparatus is first laid out lengthwise, with the cradle assemblies positioned open-end-up, to facilitate the loading of the mattress. The cradle assemblies are then positioned along the strap at an intervals. ~~that measures somewhat less than the length of the mattress with each assembly an equivalent distance from one of the handles.~~ A long edge of the mattress is then placed into, ~~and thereafter supported/eradled by,~~ each of the cradle assemblies. ~~At this point, e~~Each individual then grasps ~~one of the~~ a handles with one hand, places his/her other hand on opposite surfaces of the vertically-oriented mattress to balance the load, and lifts the mattress off of the ground/floor.